

the Atomic Energy Commission. A Spartan missile warhead test was scheduled in the Aleutians, and there was widespread fear that it would cause an earthquake and a tidal wave known as a tsunami in that area. Rachel packed up her two daughters and her husband and moved them to the island where the test was to take place. The family's presence was widely publicized and calmed much of the alarm in that area.

Rachel traveled with Jim on an extended trip to Asia in 1975 when Jim became the first United States Secretary of Defense to visit Japan for many years. It was after the fall of Saigon, and there were widespread demonstrations. But the trip also generated an outpouring of support, due in no small part to Rachel Schlesinger's presence by Jim Schlesinger's side.

Rachel served as college editor of *Mademoiselle* magazine after graduation from Radcliffe with honors in American history and literature. After her marriage to Jim, she did some freelance writing for a time, but she soon devoted herself entirely to their growing family, and of course she was very, very proud of their eight wonderful and successful children. After their eight children had grown up, she became active again in charitable and cultural affairs. One of those eight, their daughter, Clara, served very ably in my office as an intern in 1985.

Rachel was a violinist with the Arlington Symphony since 1983. She was on the board of directors and on the executive committee of the symphony. She served on the overseers' committee of the Memorial Church at Harvard, was a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Georgetown Presbyterian Church, and distributed food on many, many occasions to the homeless over a large number of years.

Rachel was absolutely committed to mental health, and she worked closely with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, including testifying before the Congress. Rachel always retained her love of the land, from her childhood days on the family farm in Ohio. In the 1980's, she began to raise Christmas trees in the Shenandoah Valley, delivering them herself near Christmastime, including the delivery of several to the Nunn home just in time for our Christmas celebration.

Rachel's long battle with cancer is now over, but the memory of her rare spirit will comfort and sustain those she loved and cared for in a life of courage and a life of commitment.

I thank the Chair.

RACHEL SCHLESINGER

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, sadly we learned yesterday of the death of Rachel Mellinger Schlesinger, the wife of Jim Schlesinger and the mother of his eight children. On behalf of the Senate, I want to convey to Jim our deepest sympathy on the loss of his beloved companion of more than 40 years.

I also want to say something about Rachel who, quietly and without fanfare, did those good works that the Book of Proverbs praises. She genuinely did open her hands to the poor and reach out her hands to the needy, distributing sandwiches to the homeless and testifying before Congress on the problems of the mentally ill. Rachel was a gifted, energetic, and compassionate woman, but such a private person that few Americans know of her contributions to the quality of our community life. I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of what she did for us.

Rachel Line Mellinger was born on a farm in Springfield, OH, and always considered herself a country girl. She loved gardening, and in the 1980's, she bought a farm in the Shenandoah Valley to raise Christmas trees which she delivered personally to satisfied customers and delighted children. Thanks to her interest in the preservation of historic sites and rural land, Americans will have more of both to enjoy in times to come.

Like Thomas Jefferson, a fellow Virginia farmer, she was a talented writer and musician. She played the violin, not only for her own pleasure, but to give pleasure to others. She played with the Arlington Symphony Orchestra for 12 years and served on its board of directors. She was the founder and first chair of the Ballston Pops, a May festival which she originally organized 10 years ago.

She was active in the community both publicly and privately. She served as deacon of the Georgetown Presbyterian Church and on the overseers committee of the Memorial Church at Harvard, but on Sundays she could be found in the Sunday school where she taught classes. She was active in the mental health movement, and worked with the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

We all know that in public life, public service can be hard on families. Jim Schlesinger served in Cabinet positions in three administrations. Rachel Schlesinger also served, in strength and dignity, preserving the privacy of her children and supporting her husband with the warmth of her presence. It is not an exaggeration to say that in all the agencies in which her husband served, she was universally loved.

Rachel Mellinger Schlesinger was a wonderful person, wise, kind, and thoughtful, who did good and not harm all the days of her life. She will be missed.

Mr. President, I was please to be able to see her 3 days ago and can report that in her last days she was cheerful and reassuring to all of those around her. She will be greatly missed. I yield the floor.

THE POLITICS OF FEAR

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, my Minnesota office is located in the town of Anoka, the Halloween capital of the world.

For most of my neighbors there, a good scare means nothing more than a Halloween visit to a haunted house, or maybe a roller coaster ride at the amusement park, or an evening in front of the TV watching old horror movies. So who would have ever guessed that, in 1995, the list of ways to give somebody a good scare would include handing them a letter from their U.S. Congressman.

There is a campaign of fear and misinformation being waged around us, Mr. President, and I come to the floor today to share with you my absolute contempt for it, and my sincere sympathy for its innocent victims.

The perpetrators? My colleagues in the minority party, in both Chambers, who are sinking to new lows as they fight desperately against the tide of public opinion that came crashing down on them last November.

Their victims? Senior citizens, who have done nothing to deserve this kind of treatment, except, apparently, to grow old.

Let me tell you about one of those victims.

She is 91 years old, and for the last couple of years, she has lived in a nursing home in the town of Cambridge, MN.

Her name is Ethel Grams, and she is my grandmother. My grandmother received a letter, delivered right to her nursing home bed, from her Representative in the House. And I am appalled that older Americans, who are among the most vulnerable in society, are being subjected to these kinds of scare tactics, fear-mongering, and blatant, self-serving distortions.

The letter is about Medicare, and is sprinkled—liberally—with inflammatory phrases like drastic cuts and benefits coming under attack.

Her Congressman writes of Republicans, quote "coercing seniors into health plans" and "herding as many seniors as possible into managed health care programs."

"Republicans in Congress are proposing to cut Medicare by \$270 billion over the next 7 years," he writes, "in order to pay for a tax cut of \$245 billion for the wealthiest of Americans—those making over \$350,000 a year."

Those assertions would be laughable if they were not so serious.

Mr. President, imagine suggesting to a 91-year-old woman, bedridden in a nursing home, that her health care plan is under attack, that with Republicans in the majority, the medical benefits she is relying upon will be slashed.

What is she supposed to think? How could she not be scared?

I cannot speak for every senior citizen, but I know how much it frightened my grandmother.

Unfortunately, this is not the only example of the damage being spread through this campaign of fear.